

# DRAFT DATED JANUARY 7, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR ARMY STANDARDS IMPROVEMENT EXECUTIVE,  
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EXECUTIVE, MR. THOMAS RIDGWAY

SUBJECT: Guidance on DoD Participation on ISO and IEC Committees

It is DoD policy to make use of commercial products and practices to the greatest extent possible, and reliance non-government standards are one way to achieve this goal. To help support U.S. competitiveness, economic growth, and protection of the environment, it is important for the private sector and the federal government to work together to facilitate decision making and implementation of standards actions at both the national and international levels. OMB Circular A-119, "Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Standards," encourages federal agency participation in voluntary consensus international standards organizations, when such participation is compatible with an agency's mission, authority, priorities, and budget.

Based on the above, Department of Defense (DoD) personnel are encouraged to participate on appropriate Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) under the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), when appropriate. However, DoD personnel shall not accept the position of acting as the United States representative to an ISO or IEC committee, unless specifically authorized by the Defense Standards Improvement Council.

Philosophically, it is the Department's view that the United States' economy is best represented by industry on ISO and IEC committees. In general, unless it can be demonstrated that a specific DoD employee leads the nation in technical expertise for a particular area and that it is in the best interest of the nation to have DoD participation directly on ISO or IEC committees, DoD participation shall be limited to national non-government standards committees that represent the United States in the international arena.

Walter B. Bergmann, II  
Chairman